

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone apply for a GEAR UP scholarship?

No. They must have successfully completed the GEAR UP six-year program while in high school and be nominated for an award.

Must a GEAR UP recipient be Pell eligible?

Yes, only for the first year they receive the award. Non-Pell eligible students may be awarded if funds are available.

Can GEAR UP scholarships be prorated or reduced?

Yes, if the student does not attend full-time (12 credits).

What type of college can the award be used at?

Only degree-granting Michigan public college.

If a student is not selected for an award, are they still eligible for an award later?

Yes, if there are unused GEAR UP funds, the student will be contacted. See eligibility requirements.



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GEAR UP College Day Scholarship



Helping Students Pay for College

GEAR UP/College Day



GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

About GEAR UP

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal program designed to provide early intervention services to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

GEAR UP College Day (GUCD) stresses the importance of your pursuit of a college degree as an investment you are making in yourself. The Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) Division can help you achieve your goal, but you must complete the necessary steps to receive your scholarship.

Step 1

Eligibility Requirements:

- Eligibility for your award expires six (6) years from the date of your high school graduation date (Class years 2011-12).
- May receive an award for five (5) academic years.
- Must have successfully completed the GUCD six-year program while in high school.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED.
- Must be less than 22 years old at the time of the first scholarship award.
- Must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Must be Pell Grant eligible for the first year of the award. (Non-Pell eligible students may be awarded if funds are available.)
- Must enroll at an eligible Michigan public degree-granting college at least half time.
- Must be a resident of Michigan.
- Must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or approved refugee.
- Must not be incarcerated.
- Must meet the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards.
- Must not be in default on a Federal/State student loan.
- Must complete and return the acceptance/renewal form by the required due date. *(Remember this must be done each year you receive an award.)*

Awards are based on full-time attendance; anything less will be reduced accordingly. Funds may be used for educational cost, including Estimated Family Contribution, not to exceed the cost of attendance. Acceptance/renewal form must be submitted before award is processed. To maximize your scholarship funds, we encourage you to contact Student Scholarships and Grants (SSG) to inquire on Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) eligibility.



Participating Colleges

A complete listing of participating institutions is available on the GEAR UP College Day Fact Sheet at www.michigan.gov/ssg under the Forms and Publications tab.

Step 2

SSG will request the college you attend to verify that you meet the program requirements. After receipt of verification, your payment will be processed and sent to the college. Awards will be prorated over two semesters or three terms, according to the college's enrollment calendar. First payment for the academic year will be made **after October 1**.

Future awards are subject to available and approved funding.

Step 3

To maintain eligibility for the award:

- To remain eligible for your scholarship, it is encouraged to complete assignments and maintain regular class attendance. This will enable you to maintain SAP and help you reach your goal.
- Seek out help from the resources available on your campus. Remember to talk to your advisor or GEAR UP coordinator if you are having any problems.
- It is your responsibility to keep SSG posted if you change your address, college, e-mail or telephone number. **If we cannot contact you, we cannot award you.**

Step 4

What to do if unexpected things happen:

If you attend less than half time or need to interrupt your enrollment, you may appeal for award reinstatement. Your appeal request must come after the enrollment of the semester/term that the circumstance occurred. All appeals must have supporting documentation. **Keep SSG informed of any interruptions to enrollment. Failure to notify SSG of an interruption to your enrollment can result in forfeiting this award.**